

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03873 302240Z

61

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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Z 302202Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 9840

S E C R E T BEIRUT 3873

NODIS

FOR DAY AND AMBASSADOR BROWN: PASS SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS - PHALANGE THINKING

REF: BEIRUT 3866

1. GOT TOGETHER THIS EVENING WITH PHALANGE POLIT-BURO REPRESENTATIVE  
PAKRADOUNI.

2. PAKRADOUNI INFORMED ME MAY 1 SESSION WOULD PROBABLY BE DELAYED  
(THIS HAS BEEN SUBSEQUENTLY CONFIRMED). PHALANGE WERE DISAPPOINTED  
BUT NOT DISCOURAGED. THEY WANTED MAY 1 MEETING BECAUSE THEY THOUGHT  
THEY COULD GUARANTEE SECURITY ON THAT DATE (QUESTIONABLE) BUT  
WERE NOT SURE HOW THINGS WOULD BE ON FOLLOWING DAYS. MOREOVER, IT WAS  
LOGICAL TO INSIST ON NO PARLIAMENTARY DELAYS IF THEY HAD INSISTED  
THERE BE NO DELAYS ON PART OF PRESIDENT.

3. ON OTHER HAND, PAKRADOUNI AWARE THAT EXTRA WEEK, WHILE ENABLING  
SELECTION OF THIRD MAN, ALSO MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR SYRIANS TO SMOOTH  
OUT SOME OF DIFFERENCES WITH JUMBLATT. SARKIS WITH JUMBLATT'S  
CO-OPERATION WOULD BE MUCH MORE EFFECTIVE THAN WITHOUT IT.

4. PAKRADOUNI STRESSED THAT THREE KEYS TO LEBANESE POLITICS WERE  
GEMAYEL, JUMBLATT AND THE SYRIANS. HE TOO WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO A  
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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 03873 302240Z

DIALOGUE BETWEEN JUMBLATT AND GEMAYEL AND WAS WORKING IN THA

DIRECTION. THE PHALANGE WAS TIRED OF WAR AND WANTED TO MAKE PEACE AND REBUILD THE COUNTRY.

5. ON CHAMOUN'S OPPOSITION, PAKRADIOUNI SAID SOME THEATRICALS WERE INVOLVED. IT WAS ARRANGED FOR GEMAYEL TO COME OUT STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF SARKIS. THIS WOULD ENABLE CHAMOUN TO CONVINCE THE RELUCTANT DRAGON SK IN HIS OWN PARTY THAT THEY HAD TO GO ALONG WITH SARKIS FOR THE SAKE OF SOLIDARITY.

6. ON FRANGIE'S RESIGNATION, PAKRADOUNI SAID PRESIDENT WOULD RESIGN WITHIN 48 HOURS IF SARKIS ELECTED. ELECTION OF SOMEONE ELSE WOULD BE A DIFFERENT MATTER.

7. PAKRADOUNI MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE IS IN CONSTANT TOUCH WITH BOTH THE PALESTINIANS AND THE SYRIANS. WARING

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